

Lincoln, Nebraska
February 17, 2006

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

The Community Corrections Council (Council) met Friday, February 17, 2006, 9:00 a.m., at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was open to the public and was preceded by advance publicized notice in the Lincoln Journal Star.

Members present:

Scot L. Adams
Mike Behm
William Burgess
Catherine Cook
Ellen Fabian-Brokofsky
The Honorable Karen B. Flowers
Dr. Aileen Gruendel
Julie Hippen
The Honorable John P. Icenogle
Robert Lindemeier
Jim McKenzie
Ron Sorensen (HHS Designee)
Senator John Syowiecki
Janice Walker
Senator Kermit A. Brashear, Chair

Members absent:

Esther Casmer
Joe Kelly
Robert Houston

Council staff present:

Linda Krutz, Executive Director
Jennifer Doné
Julie L. Rogers

Others present:

Paul Accardy
Bruce Ayers
Scott Carlson
Kathy Gibson-Beltz
Janet Hammer
Doug Johnson
John Krejci
Deb Minardi
Doug Nichols
Mike Overton
Jim Pieper
Steve Rowoldt
Christine Salvatore
Duane Sanders
Larry Wayne
Linda Wittmuss

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME & OVERVIEW

Chairperson Brashear called the Council meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and gave an overview of the meeting. Attendance is indicated above. Expected absences were announced.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections were made to the December 30, 2005, meeting minutes. The minutes stood approved as corrected.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FEE REPORT

Bruce Ayers of the Crime Commission presented the Community Corrections Fees Report. New information was added to the report including the fiscal year appropriation and obligated amounts under each fund. Members were asked to contact Ayers if the added figures needed reworking. The state's biennium budget process was explained and discussed.

TARGET POPULATION REPORT

Mike Overton of the Crime Commission presented the Target Population Report and the "Community Corrections Uniform Crime Data Summary" handout. Overton pointed out that there is an increase in the number of felony drug offenders being admitted to the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) while admissions to Probation and Parole decreased.

"Felony drug offender" (FDO) is not defined the same by Probation and DCS when providing the data used to compile the Target Population Report. Overton will work with Probation and DCS to define FDO in the same way when submitting their data for the report.

TIMELINE

The 2006 Timeline was reviewed and approved as presented.

JUSTICE SUBSTANCE ABUSE TEAM (JSAT)

Steve Rowoldt, Co-Chair of JSAT, gave an overview of the January JSAT meeting including discussions about the Methamphetamine Treatment Study, the Voucher Program, and the Standardized Model. Rowoldt and Jerome Barry were elected new Co-Chairs of JSAT. Barry and Rowoldt met with Kathy Seacrest, outgoing chair, to discuss transition, membership, and committees. A membership proposal will be brought to JSAT then brought to the Council for approval. Further identified action items include the development of mission and vision statements and strategic plans for JSAT and each sub-committee, creating a standard format for a newsletter, a Work Ethic Camp presentation, and the expansion of the standardized model to include substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment.

Community Corrections Programs Report (Herewith)

Deb Minardi, Community Corrections Programs Coordinator – Probation, gave the Community Corrections Programs Report. The three significant components of activity since the first of the year have been the conclusion of the 6-week advanced officer training under the Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision program (SSAS), the implementation of the standardized model, and the design and process for the Fee for Service Voucher System. Minardi has been traveling across the state to explain to stakeholders – judges, officers, providers – about how SSAS, the standardized model, and the voucher system fit together.

Also discussed were the day and evening reporting centers being developed as part of SSAS. All are in full implementation phase which includes the identification of physical space and location in coordination with local entities. Currently, the SSAS budget includes \$80,000 per reporting center site which will not be enough for any full functioning center. Funding for reporting centers is being sought through a legislative appropriation.

Duane Sanders, an ex-offender, asked how businesses in the community will be a part of reporting centers and how does employment fit into the plan. Minardi explained that employment is key in the day to day operation of reporting centers and resources shall be brought in.

VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE “GREAT NEWS”

Brashear shared that the Vera Institute of Justice will be the recipient of funding from a private trust to continue working with Nebraska in the study and reform of community corrections and sentencing.

LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES – THE NEBRASKA POLL

Brashear reported the results of League of Municipalities’ “The Nebraska Poll” – a valid study which included questions about methamphetamine.

- 61% of respondents were 51 years old and older
- On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being very serious, the methamphetamine epidemic was scored the most serious issue scoring 4.235
- In naming the best solution to the methamphetamine epidemic, 51% identified treatment, 25% identified jail, and 16% identified both
- If it was known that treatment for methamphetamine users was cheaper than jailing them, 70% preferred treatment, 20% preferred jail, and 6% preferred both as the solution.

The Council recessed at 10:00 a.m. and reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jennifer Doné was welcomed as the new administrative assistant to the Council.

The scheduled March Council meeting may be cancelled. There is no meeting scheduled for April, and two meetings scheduled for May. The Council will plan to meet once in May.

SPECIALIZED COURT START-UPS FEE PROPOSAL

Ellen Fabian-Brokofsky, Probation Administrator, and Janice Walker, State Court Administrator, requested that the Council approve the spending of fees for drug court start-ups. Probation Administration will enter into an inter-local with Midwest Nebraska Adult Drug Court – Dawson County and Northeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court – Madison County. This funding will be for operations through June 30, 2006. Extensive work has been done with Judge Doyle from Lexington and Madison County. Both communities have worked very hard to get this up and running.

The proposal was discussed. The statutory language pertaining to inter-locals needs to be followed when Probation works with drug courts. If the drug court teams have not been to a national training, there should be an understanding that they will attend as soon as the training is available.

Council member Bill Burgess *made a motion to approve request to spend \$60,976.64 on Drug Court Start-Up Proposal to Community Corrections Council*. The motion was seconded by Bob Lindemeier and approved.

SPECIALIZED SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUPERVISION (SSAS) - PROBATION & PAROLE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Ellen Fabian-Brokofsky, Probation Administrator, and Jim McKenzie, Parole Administrator, announced that the Memorandum of Understanding between Probation and Parole for the coordination of work for SSAS was signed this week.

FEE FOR SERVICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

Deb Minardi, Community Corrections Programs Coordinator, introduced Christine Salvatore, Justice Treatment Systems Specialist, who coordinates the Fee for Service Voucher Program. Salvatore presented a PowerPoint explaining the Fee for Service Program, the paper voucher process, and the electronic voucher concept. Also explained were the rates and service definitions, the programs budget and allocation of funds, fund designation, the evaluation voucher process and treatment voucher process.

The Voucher Program was discussed. It was clarified that substance abuse evaluations will be completed prior to sentencing. Also, recommended levels of care as well as available levels of care will be tracked through the standardized reporting format.

Linda Wittmuss, Division of Behavioral Health—HHSS, raised two issues. First, it should be contemplated how the vouchers will be consistent with the levels of care in applying ASAM, and secondly, when a voucher runs out there will be capacity issues so all need to continue working together and working through policies and procedures.

2006 LEGISLATION

LB 1258

Legislative Bill 1258 is the appropriation bill to fund Council related programs. The committee hearing was February 8. Senator Cunningham prioritized the bill.

LB 1257

Legislative Bill 1257 is the Council's bill mainly focusing on the Prisoner Reentry Court and other Council related statute changes. The hearing is set for February 23 before the Judiciary Committee. The understanding is the provisions of LB 1257 will be incorporated into LB 642—Senator Dwite Pedersen's priority bill.

LR 274 CA

Legislative Resolution 274 is the Constitutional Amendment that would change separation of powers provisions to permit supervision of individuals by the judicial and executive departments. This will probably be designated as a Speaker priority bill.

LB 273 CA

Legislative Resolution 273 is the Constitutional Amendment that would change separation of powers provisions to permit the Legislature to create boards and similar bodies with voting members of the Legislative, executive, and judicial departments. There were a number of people who've expressed concerns with this amendment.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jim Pieper, Legal Counsel to the Speaker, discussed more fully funding day and evening reporting centers in the immediate short term with some of the un-obligated probation programming fee funds as Probation has successfully pointed out that they are not able to keep any of the centers fully staffed right now. Planning will occur between Council staff and Probation and the Council will revisit the issue.

CONCLUDING REMARKS & ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is Friday, March 31, 2006, 9:00 a.m., in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie L. Rogers